

ACHIEVEMENT OF THE NATIONAL  
RENEWABLE ENERGY LABORA-  
TORY GOLDEN, COLORADO

**HON. MARK UDALL**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 14, 2002*

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise to call attention to another achievement of the National Renewable Energy Laboratory, based in Golden, Colorado. It is appropriate that on its 25th anniversary, the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) has garnered yet another award recognizing its contributions to the development of clean energy technologies.

In its December issue, Scientific American magazine has named NREL one of the Scientific American 50—the magazine's first list recognizing annual contributions to science and technology that provide a vision of a better future.

NREL, along with Spectrolab Inc., was selected by the magazine for its work in increasing the efficiency of photovoltaic solar cells. NREL's research into multi-junction solar cells for more than a decade has led the way to ever more efficient cells, offering the potential of cheaper electricity from the sun.

The magazine noted that all the recipients of the Scientific American 50 have "demonstrated clear, progressive views of what our technological future could be, as well as the leadership, knowledge and expertise essential to realizing those visions."

I continue to be proud of the tremendous contributions that the National Renewable Energy Laboratory had made—to Colorado, our country, and our world. Congratulations to all at NREL on this important award.

IN HONOR OF REPRESENTATIVE  
DAN MILLER

**HON. E. CLAY SHAW, JR.**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 14, 2002*

Mr. SHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise on behalf of my dear friend and colleague, DAN MILLER, whom I have had the privilege of working with from the great state of Florida.

A member of the freshman class of 1992, DAN represents the Thirteenth Congressional District of Florida along the Gulf Coast areas of Sarasota and Bradenton. DAN never held public office before his election to Congress, but once here, fought for legislation critical to the future of our state. A man of his word, DAN took office with a pledge to term limit himself and has kept that promise, much to our personal dismay.

Looking back on his career, DAN has served his district and his country honorably in his roles on the Appropriations, Government Reform and Census committees. DAN has stood as a staunch fiscal conservative who is committed to reducing wasteful government spending. These beliefs have manifested themselves most notably through his efforts to curtail the government sugar program. DAN also did great things in his role as an appropriator. He was one of the original cheerleaders of doubling the National Institutes of Health budget, sensing its growing importance to the U.S. and the world health communities.

Beyond all of these accomplishments, DAN and his wife, Glenda are my neighbors here in Washington and dear friends. I will miss DAN's presence in this House as my wife, Emilie, and I will miss their presence in our home. Although the MILLERS leave Washington, I look forward to many years of continued friendship.

Mr. Speaker, all Floridians and all Americans have been better served for having DAN MILLER in Congress. This body exists so that the people of our country have a voice in their government. The votes Floridians cast to send him to Washington brought this House reasoned judgement, energetic lawmaking and strong conviction. Today we honor his service to his country and wish him well. God Bless DAN and GLENDA MILLER.

FIGHTING FOR DISABLED  
MILITARY RETIREES

**HON. MICHAEL BILIRAKIS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 14, 2002*

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, for more than 17 years, I have introduced legislation to repeal a 100 year old law that unfairly penalizes disabled military retirees. Some military retirees—individuals who are eligible for military retirement benefits as a result of a fall service career are also eligible for disability compensation from the VA based on a medical problem they incurred while in the service. Under present law, these service-disabled retirees must surrender a portion of their retired pay if they want to receive the disability compensation to which they are entitled. This issue is commonly referred to as "concurrent receipt." Congress enacted this unjust law in 1891.

My legislation to completely eliminate the offset between military retired pay and VA disability compensation has received strong bipartisan support in both houses of Congress. In fact, more than 90 percent of Members of the House of Representatives and more than 80 percent of the Senate have cosponsored legislation to repeal the current offset.

The 106th Congress took the first steps toward addressing this inequity by authorizing the military to pay a monthly allowance to military retirees with severe service-connected disabilities rated by the Department of Veterans Affairs at 70 percent or greater. These provisions were expanded to include retirees with ratings of 60 percent.

For years, I have been told that I had to get the money included in the budget resolution before action would be taken on my legislation. So earlier this year, I worked very hard with Chairman NUSSLE and other members of the Budget Committee, like Representative CHARLIE BASS, to secure funding for a partial repeal of the offset in its Fiscal Year 2003 budget resolution. While the money in the budget resolution fell short of the funding needed to completely eliminate the current offset, it would have provided for a substantial concurrent receipt benefit.

For that reason, I was particularly pleased that the House Armed Services Committee incorporated the budget resolution proposal into its authorization bill. As initially approved by the House, H.R. 4546 included a provision to authorize military retirees who are 60 percent

or greater disabled to receive their full retired pay and VA disability compensation benefit by Fiscal Year 2007. During its consideration of the authorization bill, the Senate approved an amendment to authorize full concurrent receipt immediately.

Given the overwhelming support that repeal of the current offset has received in both bodies of Congress and the fact that the money was included in the Fiscal Year 2003 budget resolution, I am extremely disappointed that the conference report for the Bob Stump National Defense Authorization Act does not contain at least the House-passed concurrent receipt language. While I appreciate the efforts of Chairman DUNCAN HUNTER and others to include a benefit for some disabled retirees in the final bill, I am frustrated that we have once again failed to address this issue for the majority of retirees who have been forced to fund their own retirement for years. I have already started to hear from disabled retirees who are angry that we did not do more on this issue in the defense bill.

At a time when our nation is calling upon our Armed Forces to defend democracy and freedom, I am afraid we are sending the wrong message to our men and women in uniform. I want to remind my colleagues of a quote by our first Commander-in-Chief George Washington: "The willingness with which our young people are likely to serve in any war, no matter how justified, shall be directly proportional to how they perceive the veterans of earlier wars were treated and appreciated by their nation."

I will continue my efforts to eliminate the unjust offset that penalizes disabled military retirees in the 108th Congress. I hope my colleagues will join me in the fight to restore military retired pay to the men and women who earn it by serving in our Nation's Armed Forces.

OUR FLORIDA COLLEAGUES:  
CARRIE MEEK AND KAREN  
THURMAN AND DAN MILLER

**HON. MARK FOLEY**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 14, 2002*

Mr. FOLEY. Mr. Speaker, I want to join my colleagues in recognizing the contributions that three of our Florida colleagues—CARRIE MEEK and KAREN THURMAN and DAN MILLER—have made. Each brought invaluable gifts to this institution, and each are leaving with a legacy that any one of us would be proud to have.

I have known KAREN THURMAN since we both were elected state officials in the Florida Legislature. And both then and since, she worked hard and long for constituents in need. She has been a particularly strong champion of veterans' and senior citizen causes and of Florida's agricultural community. Both of us have served on the Agriculture Committee here and since then on the Ways and Means Committee. And while KAREN and I have found ourselves divided many times by partisan political issues, I have never known her once not to fight for what she believes deeply in. She's a fighter and a wonderful person, and while politics ultimately determines our fate here, there is no question KAREN will continue a